

IN HONOR OF ERNIE LAMANNA

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 3, 1999*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ernie LaManna. For 50 years Ernie, 60, has worked in the barber shop on the corner of Lorain and West 65th. When he emigrated to Cleveland from Bari, Italy, in 1948, he worked in his father's barber shop, shining shoes.

Ernie received his barber's license in 1954, a year before he graduated from West High School. Mr. LaManna briefly left the barber shop in 1956 to serve his country in the Armed Forces for two years. For a while in the late 1950's Ernie and his father, Frank, worked side by side. A picture showing Frank, Ernie, and another barber is a treasured keepsake for Ernie. Like many small businessmen, hard work and perseverance have helped the LaManna's barber shop to thrive. Ernie's dedication and commitment to his customers is outstanding. Among Ernie's many loyal customers is Dave Long who has had his hair cut by a LaManna for over 60 years.

After 50 years of work, Ernie LaManna still enjoys what he is doing. He likes the social aspects of his job and is always eager to strike up a conversation with passers-by. His enthusiasm and sense of humor have helped him to maintain a strong and vital business.

Ladies and gentlemen please join me in recognizing Ernie LaManna's 50 years of tireless work.

A TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY VACCO  
ON RECEIVING THE VILLAGE OF  
BEDFORD PARK COMMITTEE'S  
MAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 3, 1999*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly remarkable public servant, Anthony (Tony) Vacco, who was recently selected to receive the village of Bedford Park, Illinois' 1998 Man of the Year award.

Mr. Vacco was appointed Mayor and Village President of Evergreen Park, Illinois on October of 1968 to fill a vacancy. He was so good at his job, that he was elected in 1969 and has been re-elected for each term ever since, and will again be a candidate for that office this spring.

Mr. Vacco serves his community in every aspect of his life. He supports and/or is a member of numerous local charities, civic, fraternal, service, educational and religious organizations. Among his charitable events is the Evergreen Park Cancer Society "Love Lights A Tree" program at Christmas. Through his efforts, the Evergreen Park Cancer Society unit is the most prosperous fundraising unit in all of Illinois. Mr. Vacco has taken on numerous leadership roles, including serving as President of the Southwest Council of Mayors since 1976.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Vacco on receiving this prestigious award, and extend to him my best wishes for continued service to the community.

ABSALOM JONES DAY CELEBRATION  
BENEFITS BLACK EPISCOPAL  
SCHOLARSHIP AND EN-  
DOWMENT FUNDS

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 3, 1999*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in a tribute to the legacy and spirit of Absalom Jones, an 18th century slave and join the 1999 Absalom Jones Day Celebration presented by the Washington Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians. "Standing Firm in Faith: Accepting the Challenge" is the theme of the celebration.

Mr. Speaker, Absalom Jones, a house slave, was born in 1746 in Delaware. He taught himself to read from the New Testament and other books. At the age of sixteen, he was sold to a store owner in Philadelphia where he attended a night school for Blacks that was operated by the Quakers. At the age of twenty, he married another slave and purchased her freedom with his earnings. Absalom Jones bought his own freedom in 1784.

At St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church, he served as lay minister for its Black membership. Jones's active evangelism, and that of his friend Richard Allen, greatly increased Black membership at St. George's. The alarmed vestry decided to segregate Blacks into an upstairs gallery without notifying them. During a Sunday service when ushers attempted to remove them, the Black parishioners walked out in a body.

In 1787, Black Christians organized the Free African Society, the first African-American society Absalom Jones and Richard Allen were elected overseers. Members of the Society paid monthly dues for the benefit of those in need, and established communication with similar Black groups in other cities. In 1792, the Society began to build a church which was dedicated on July 17, 1794.

The African Church applied for membership in the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania with the following conditions: 1. That they be received as an organized body; 2. That they have control over their local affairs; and 3. That Absalom Jones be licensed as a layreader and, if qualified, be ordained as minister. In October 1794, it was admitted as St. Thomas African Episcopal Church. Absalom Jones was ordained as a deacon in 1795 and as a priest on September 21, 1802. The Reverend Absalom Jones was the first Black priest in the Episcopal Church.

Reverend Jones was an earnest preacher who denounced slavery. His constant visiting and mild manner made him beloved by his own flock and by the community. St. Thomas Church grew to more than 500 members during its first year. Known as the "Black Bishop of the Episcopal Church", Reverend Jones was an example of persistent faith in God and in the Church as God's instrument.

Mr. Speaker, the Washington Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians uses its Absalom Jones Day Celebration in two significant ways. First, the proceeds which are generated will be used for the benefit of the Black Episcopal College scholarship and endowment funds. Scholarship recipients include Saint Augustine's College which was founded in 1867 and is affiliated with the Protestant Episcopal Church. The college is committed to teaching the importance of achievement, leadership and community service. Saint Paul's College was founded in 1888 as Saint Paul's Normal and Industrial School, and became Saint Paul's Polytechnic Institute in 1941. It received authority to offer a four-year degree program in 1941, and the name was changed to St. Paul's College in 1957. Its liberal arts, career-oriented, and teacher education programs prepare graduates for effective participation in various aspects of human endeavor. Voorhees College stands as testimony to the faith and determination of its founder, Elizabeth Evelyn Wright. A former student of Booker T. Washington at Tuskegee, Miss Wright, at 23, dreamed the seemingly impossible dream of starting a school for Black youth in Denmark, South Carolina. From its founding in 1897 as Denmark Industrial School, Voorhees has evolved into a leading four-year, liberal arts college—the first historically Black institution in the state of South Carolina to achieve full accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Secondly, the celebration will include recognition of a person whose life and work in the church and community exemplifies the legacy and spirit of the Reverend Absalom Jones. Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to join this tribute to the legacy and spirit of Absalom Jones and salute the honoree of the evening.

REINTRODUCTION OF SLUSH FUND  
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 3, 1999*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, in the 105th Congress the Republican majority changed House rules to allow the creation of a nearly \$8 million "reserve fund" for unanticipated committee expenses.

With the advent of biennial committee funding, setting aside resources for unforeseeable contingencies makes sense.

No one can know with certainty 2 years in advance what demands House committees may face. If contingencies do not arise, and the funds are not needed, they can be used to reduce the public debt.

But somewhere a good idea went awry. Republican leaders used the reserve not as a rainy-day fund for unforeseen contingencies, but as a slush fund for their partisan projects.

Most of the nearly \$8 million was eventually disbursed, not for committee expenses a reasonable person would consider unforeseeable, but instead for political investigations of the administration and the working men and women of organized labor.

And under procedures established by the Republican leadership, these millions were